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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Original) A sealant tool for use in applying a sealant, comprising:
 a handle having a substantially planar configuration; and
 a substantially planar applicator portion having a fixed end that is joined to
 one end of the handle and a free tip section having a substantially spline radius that
 comprises a substantially non-marking material.
- 2. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle and the applicator portion are manufactured using substantially the same non-marking material.
- 3. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle and the applicator portion are integrated.
- 4. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle is manufactured using at least one of plastic, fiberglass, wood, polyurethane, and metal.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the non-marking material further comprises at least one of polyurethane, polypropylene, nylon, and accetal acetal.
- 6. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the applicator portion is manufactured employing a molded injection technique.
- 7. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the spline radius further comprises a passive shaped curvature.
- 8. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the spline radius further comprises an aggressive shaped curvature.

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9. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the applicator portion further comprises a longitudinal axis and an edge, and wherein a thickness of the applicator portion is maximum along the longitudinal axis and decreases approximately linearly towards the edge.

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- 10. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is about 0.05 inches at the edge.
- 11. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is about 0.25 inches at the longitudinal axis.
- 12. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion decreases approximately linearly along the longitudinal axis in the tip section.
- 13. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a length of the handle and the applicator portion combined is about 9 inches.
- 14. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a width of the applicator portion is determined based, in part, on a width of a joint to be sealed with the sealant tool.
- 15. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 14, wherein the width of the applicator portion ranges between about 0.73 inches and about 1.52 inches.
- 16. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a length and a width of the handle is determined for a comfortable gripping of the sealant tool.
- 17. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a surface of the handle further comprises at least one of a smooth finish and an indented finish.

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18. (Original) A method of applying a sealant to a structural joint employing a sealant tool, comprising:

selecting the sealant tool comprising a tip with an aggressive shaped curvature or a tip with passive shaped curvature, based, in part, on an esthetic aspect associated with the structural joint; and

holding the sealant tool at a predetermined angle while applying the sealant, wherein the predetermined angle determines a depth of sealant shape.

- 19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the predetermined angle of the sealant tool determines a percentage of contact surface.
- 20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the percentage of contact surface controlled by the predetermined angle of the sealant tool varies between about 26% and about 38%.
- 21. (Original) A sealant tool for use in applying sealant, comprising:

 a handle means having a substantially planar configuration; and
 an applicator means having a substantially planar configuration and a
 substantially spline radius at its free distal end, wherein a proximal end of the applicator
 means is joined to the handle means, and wherein the applicator means employs a
 substantially non-marking means.
- 22. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 21, wherein the free distal end of the applicator means further comprises at least one of a passive shaped curvature and an aggressive shaped curvature.
- 23. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 21, wherein the non-marking means comprises at least one of polyurethane, polypropylene, nylon, and accetal acetal.